

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 EUR-12

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CU-02 /093 W

----- 074563

R 261100Z APR 75

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1923

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0456

EO 11652: PFOR, IZ, JO

TAGS:

SUBJECT: IRAQI-JORDANIAN RAPPROCHMENT

1. JORDANIAN AMBASSADOR DIAB AMRAN TOLD ME APRIL 22 THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN JORDAN AND IRAQ ARE NOW PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY. HE HAD RECENTLY SEEN SADDAM HUSSEIN AND SADDAM HAD SAID HE WOULD VISIT JORDAN IN NEAR FUTURE, AT INVITATION OF KING HUSSEIN, BUT FIRST WISHED TO HAVE RCC MEMBER AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRY JAZWRAI MAKE VISIT TO FURTHER ECONOMIC RELATIONS. AMRAN CONFIRMED THAT TRANSIT AGREEMENT FOR GOODS TO IRAQ VIA AQABA WAS UNDER DISCUSSION. IRAQI DEL LED BY UNDER SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT HAD VISITED AQABA TWO WEEKS AGO TO LOOK INTO PROPOSAL PUSHED BY AMRAN FOR PAST YEAR. IF IRAQIS WILL FINANCE DEVELOPMENT OF PORTION OF AQABA PORT FOR THEIR OWN USE, JORDAN WOULD GIVE THEM EVERY
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FACILITY REQUIRED, PRACTICALLY A BLANK AGREEMENT. IRAQIS

HAD VERY MUCH APPRECIATED THIS AND AMRAN EXPECTS NEGOTIATIONS TO COMMENCE SHORTLY.

2. IRAQI INTEREST IN AQABA IS NO DOUBT RELATED TO SEARCH FOR WAYS TO BREAK SYRIA'S GEOGRAPHIC STRANGLEHOLD OVER IRAQ. AMRAN SAID THERE ARE NOW 180,000 TONS OF IRAQI GOODS IN LTAKIA THAT SYRIA REFUSES TO RELEASE.

3. AMRAN SAID TWO COUNTRIES WILL ALSO SOON SIGN CULTURAL ACCORD WHICH INTER ALIA CONTAINS IRAQI COMMITMENT TO ACCEPT JORDANIAN STUDENTS ONLY THROUGH JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT. THERE ARE SOME 9,000 JORDANIAN "STUDENTS" IN IRAQ BUT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN CAUSING ANY PROBLEMS LATELY AND ARE TIGHTLY CONTROLLED BY THE GOI THROUGH THE NATIONAL UNION OF IRAQI STUDENTS.
LOWRIE

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NNN

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